

STATE OF COLORADO

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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

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NORTON STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DEATH OF FORMER CHAIRMAN LEONARD BURCH

Following a brief illness, Leonard Burch, former Chairman of the Southern Ute Tribe, passed away today in Durango.

(DENVER) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton issued the following statement:

“I am deeply saddened by the unfortunate loss of former Chairman Leonard Burch,” stated Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton. “Chairman Burch was the Southern Ute leader and main supporter who fervently petitioned the legislature for the passage of the 1976 statute that created the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. His continued support of the Commission and long standing partnership with state elected officials has been admired and respected by all. During his long-standing tenure as Chair, he was a visionary for the future of his tribe and definitely a primary warrior for American Indian people in Colorado. My prayers and deepest sympathies to his family.”

For more information please contact Karen Wilde Rogers at (303) 866.3027 or at Karen.Wilde-Rogers@state.co.us.

In 1976, the Colorado General Assembly created, within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. It was designed to be the official liaison between the two Ute Tribes and the State of Colorado. Since its inception, the Commission has worked with the two Ute Indian Tribes in Colorado and the off-reservation American Indian people who live in Colorado.

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